



State of Utah

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OK

April 26, 2002

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DRH*

FROM: *WB* Priscilla W. Burton, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Soils

RE: Technical Field Visit, Tank Seam Extension to Wild Horse Ridge, CO-OP Mining, Bear Canyon Mine, C/015/025-02B

Other Attendees:

Mike Suflita, DOGM Inspector
Charles Reynolds, Mining Engineer, CO-OP Mining

Date & Time:

April 19, 2002, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

PURPOSE:

To familiarize myself with the situation of the proposed tank seam extension to Wild Horse Ridge and to observe the condition of the topsoil stockpiled during the Wild Horse Ridge expansion.

OBSERVATIONS:

Topsoil from the Wild Horse Ridge expansion had been seeded in March. The seed was hand broadcast and raked into the soil. No mulch was applied. Very little seed was observed on the surface. The slopes of the topsoil pile are at the angle of repose. If this seeding fails to produce cover over the topsoil, the Permittee should use either mulch and tackifier or an excelsior blanket to keep the seeds on the slope.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

By way of comparison, the existing Tank Seam topsoil pile (on the south facing Tank Seam road) was observed. The topsoil pile is also at the angle of repose, but the run of the slopes is much shorter than the WHR topsoil pile. In 1994, seed was hand broadcast and raked into the topsoil pile with no mulch application. Existing vegetation is robust, but the cover is limited. The Tank Seam topsoil pile slopes were gouged whereas the WHR topsoil pile slopes were not gouged. Slopes of the tank seam access road were observed, where Mr. Reynolds indicated that the slopes were not gouged and where the seed was hand broadcast and raked in and excelsior matting was applied. Here, vegetation was also established.

Additional seeding had been done on the Wild Horse Ridge catch basin and the berm at the top of the topsoil road, and the slopes under the conveyor. Excelsior matting was used on some steep slopes, but not staked down to have contact with the ground. According to Mr. Reynolds, the work was still in progress.

Vegetation in the Tank Seam area is a grass understory and Mountain Mahogany forest with some conifers. It is a north-facing slope. There is a definite color break between the topsoil and the calcic subsoils below. This break will aid in the recovery of the topsoil. Locations of fill slopes and retaining walls were noted. The approximate location of the vegetation reference area was photographed. The consultant will be contacted to flag the actual location.

Photographs illustrating the condition of the access road and pad location are in the Images folder for the mine site.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The vegetation reference area for the Tank Seam extension of the Wild Horse Ridge should be flagged.

The topsoil pile from Wild Horse Ridge construction should be reseeded if the vegetation fails to emerge or if emergence is limited to the lower slopes. When reseeding, the Permittee should utilize a mulch cover to hold the seed and soil in place on the steep, ungouged slope of the topsoil pile.

Excelsior blanket placed on the slopes of the conveyor must be firmly anchored to the soil surface to be effective.